

REMARKS

Claims 18–29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1–17 are canceled, and claims 18–29 are added. Support for the new claims may be found, for example, in the claims and the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Myers during the telephone interview held November 27, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented during the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Response to Claim Objections and Rejections

By this Amendment, claims 1–17 are canceled, rendering the claim objection and all of the claim rejections moot.

III. New Claims

By this Amendment, claims 18–29 are added. Claims 18–27 are method claims that each require the elected combination of SEQ ID NOs:1–232 and 242–261. Claims 28 and 29 are not method claims and, thus, are directed to subject matter that was not elected in response to the traversed February 13, 2007 Restriction Requirement. However, because claims 28 and 29 both require the elected combination of SEQ ID NOs:1–232 and 242–261, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 28 and 29 should be examined with claims 18–27, because the combination of SEQ ID NOs:1–232 and 242–261 is a special technical feature that is common to each of the claims.

Claims 18–29 have been drafted in view of the objection and rejections presented in the Office Action and discussed during the telephone interview. Applicants respectfully

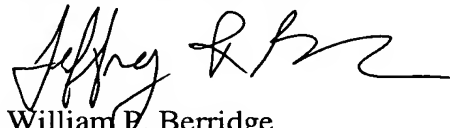
submit that each of claims 18-29 complies with the written description and enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and distinguishes over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053519 to Fodor et al. ("Fodor") because Fodor fails to teach "a combination of oligonucleotides respectively comprising the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1-232 and 242-261, or full-length complementary sequences thereof."

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William F. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Jeffrey R. Bousquet
Registration No. 57,771

WPB:JRB/kxs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 31, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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